

Applicants: Aidan J. Lavery et al.  
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Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend Claim 1 and add new Claim 13 as indicated below.

1. (Currently amended) An ink jet recording material comprising  
a support; and  
at least one image recording layer; and  
a protective layer deposited, wherein on the upper side of the image recording layer, wherein the there is deposited a protective layer contains containing (i) an organic sulphur-containing compound which forms complexes with metal ions, (ii) a boric acid compound, and (iii) an organic compound having the formula  $\text{MeX}$  or  $\text{MeX}_2$  where Me is a transition metal from group VIb, VIIb, VIIIb, Ib and IIb in the Periodic Table and X is an anion of a carboxylic acid having 4 to 12 carbon atoms, and wherein the protective layer is not an image recording layer.
2. (Previously presented) The recording material according to claim 1, wherein the image recording layer contains at least one dye-fixing layer and at least one ink absorbing layer, wherein the dye-fixing layer is between the ink absorbing layer and the protective layer.
3. (Original) The recording material according to claim 1 wherein the transition metal is selected from the group consisting of copper, cobalt, nickel, and manganese.
4. (Original) The recording material according to claim 1 wherein the anion is an anion of a hydroxycarboxylic acid.

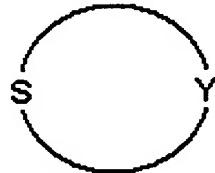
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5. (Original) The recording material according to claim 4 wherein the hydroxycarboxylic acid is selected from gluconic acid, glucaric acid, succinic acid, hydroxysuccinic acid (malic acid), 2,3-dihydroxysuccinic acid (tartaric acid) and their mixtures.
6. (Original) The recording material according to claim 4 wherein the hydroxycarboxylic acid is selected from the group of compounds containing an aromatic ring, especially hydroxybenzoic acids such as 2-hydroxybenzoic acid (salicylic acid), 3-hydroxybenzoic acid, 4-hydroxybenzoic acid, 2,4,5-trihydroxybenzoic acid, 4- or 5-sulphosalicylic acid, 4- or 5-hydroxythiosalicylic acid.
7. (Original) The recording material according to claim 1 wherein the anion is selected from ethylene diamine tetracetic acid (EDTA), ethylene diamine triacetic acid, hydroxyethyl ethylene diamine tetracetic acid (HEEDTA), nitrolo triacetic acid or their salts.
8. (Original) The recording material according to claim 1 wherein the metal-compound-containing layer contains a hydroxybenzoic sulphonic acid as another component.
9. (Original) The recording material according to claim 1 wherein the complex-forming organic sulphur compound is a compound having the general formula  $R_2C=S$ , whereby R equally or independently of one another is hydrogen, an  $NH_2$  group, an  $NHR^1$  group, an  $NR^1_2$  group, a methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl group, a

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substituted or non-substituted aryl with 5 to 12 carbon atoms or alkoxy with 1 to 3 carbon atoms, or both groups R form an aromatic or non-aromatic ring with 5 or 6 carbon atoms which can contain nitrogen and/or sulphur as a heteroatom, wherein R<sup>1</sup> equally or independently of one another has the same meaning as R.

10. (Original) The recording material according to claim 1 wherein the complex-forming organic sulphur-containing compound is a compound having the general formula



wherein Y denotes the atoms required to form a substituted or non-substituted aromatic or non-aromatic ring.

11. (Original) The recording material according to claims 1 to 8, wherein the complex-forming organic sulphur-containing compound is a compound having the general formula R<sub>2</sub>S, wherein R equally or independently of one another denotes hydrogen, al. kyl with 1 to 6 carbon atoms, substituted or non-substituted aryl with 5 to 12 carbon atoms, al. koxy with 1 to 3 carbon atoms, an NH<sub>2</sub> group, an NHR<sup>1</sup> group, an NR<sup>1</sup><sub>2</sub> group, OR<sup>1</sup>, wherein R<sup>1</sup> has the same meaning as R.
12. (Original) The recording material according to claim 1 wherein the metal compound/sulphur-containing compound weight ratio is 1:1 to 1:2.

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13. (New) An ink jet recording material comprising:  
    a support;  
    at least one image recording layer; and  
    a protective layer deposited on the upper side of the image recording layer,  
wherein the protective layer consists of (i) an organic sulphur-containing compound which forms complexes with metal ions, (ii) a boric acid compound, (iii) an organic compound having the formula  $\text{MeX}$  or  $\text{MeX}_2$  where Me is a transition metal from group VIb, VIIb, VIIIb, Ib and IIb in the Periodic Table and X is an anion of a carboxylic acid having 4 to 12 carbon atoms, and (iv) one or more of a binder, a cross-linking agent, a tenside, a defoamer, and a light-stabilizing agent.